

THE ADEINRST ALPHOME

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In the May 1999 Word Ways, Rex Gooch introduced the term alphome to readers. This is used to refer to the letters of a word arranged in alphabetical order. For example, AEGINRST is the alphome of the words ASTRINGE, GRANITES, and so on. Elsewhere in the same issue, Ross Eckler noticed the relative paucity of ADEINRST transposals in published sources: DETRAINS, STRADINE, STRAINED, TARN SIDE. According to the statistics presented in his article, ADEINRST should be marginally more fecund than AEGINRST in producing transposals.

AEGINRST has been studied intensively by logologists over many decades, and over 150 transposals have been identified. Although it seemed unlikely that ADEINRST could ever yield anything like 150 transposals, I decided to see how far the gap between ADEINRST and AEGINRST could be narrowed. In the list which follows, I present 50 transposals of ADEINRST. I suspect that continued searching will uncover many others, although the total will still be far short of the AEGINRST one.

The abbreviation cfp denotes a citation form plural (as in "there are three TRAINEDs on this page").

ADREINTS Oxf, cfp of adreint, past tense of adrench (to drown)
 AND RITES NonDic (function 1741 "The dedication was not performed with any of the solemn words and rites which such a function required")
 AND TIRES NonDic (repetition 1781 "Wires and tires, bents and burns, felts and falls")
 AND TRIES NonDic (canter c1825 "Away she canters, and tosses over and tries on before the looking-glass every article of dress")
 ANTIREDS 10th New Collegiate Dict, pl of antired

ARDENTIS Oxf, Latin word for ardent, adj "Inflammable, combustible. Obs exc. in the phrase ardent spirits ardent spirits, in which the meaning of ardent is now usually referred to their fiery taste: cf. L. ardentis Falerni pocula"

ATRINEDS Oxf, cfp of atrined, past tense of atrine (to touch)
 DARINEST NonDic, superlative form of darin' from daring
 DERATIN'S Web 3, cfp of deratin', inferred from derating
 DESIRANT Oxf, desiring

DESTRAIN Oxf, obs form of distrain (to compress)
 DETRAINS Web 3
 DIANTERS Oxf, cfp of dianter, an interjection (devil)

DIANTRES Web 2, pl of diantre
 DRAINEST Web 3, inferred from drain

INSTARED Oxf, past tense of instare, in instance 1611 quote "Instare, to instance, to vrge, to presse with diligence, to importune"
 INTRADES Oxf, pl of intrade, an obsolete form of intrado (a formal entry)
 IN TRADES Oxf, title of book by A. Brassey cited 13 times (see barbecue)
 IN TREADS NonDic (tread 1680 "Keeping exact time in Treads, the Workman gives a quick Tread upon the Treddle")
 IS A TREND NonDic (behaviourism 1941 "There is a trend to build up a Lingua Franca...")

RANDIEST Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, Official Scrabble Words
 RANDITES Web 2, pl of randite
 REDATIN'S Web 2, cfp of redatin', from verb redate
 RED SAINT Oxf, title of book by W. Deeping, cited once (at springald)
 RED STAIN Web 3

RESTAIN'D NonDic, form of restained, past tense of restrain (stain'd appears 38 times in Oxf)
 RINSTEAD Monthly Index of Medical Specialties, Nov 1997: drug used as a local anaesthetic/antiseptic for treatment of mouth ulcers
 RITES AND NonDic (asiarch, definition "The director of religious rites and public games in Asia Minor under the Romans")
 SAID RENT NonDic (open 1972 "To have the said rent reviewed at the said time by reference to the open market rental value...")
 SIDERANT Oxf (striking)

STAIN RED NonDic (karysome 1890 "Distinguished as... 'karyosomes', bodies that are stained blue;... 'plasmasomes', which stain red...")
 STARED IN NonDic (chalk 1847 "Fear Stared in her eyes, and chalk'd her face")
 STARINDE Oxf, form of verb stare (in a1300 quote "Starinde als he were wod")
 STRADINE Web 2
 STRAINED Web 3

TAINDERS Oxf, pl of tainder, aphetic form of attainder (a legal process)
 TAINDRES Oxf, cfp of taindre, French word in etymology of attainder
 TAN RIDES Web 3, pl of tan ride
 TAN-RIDES Oxf, pl of tan-ride
 TARN SIDE Web 2

TIRANDES Oxf, pl of tirande, obsolete variant of tyrant
 TIRES AND NonDic (ripped 1976 "The garages where you can buy hot tires and ripped-off hub caps")
 TRADE-INS Web 3, pl of trade-in
 TRADES IN Web 3, form of verb trade in
 TRAINEDS Web 3, cfp of trained

TRANSIDE Oxt, supposed form of verb transit, in 1775 quote "I then transided to the gentleman himself"

TREADIN'S Web 3, cfp of treading, from verb tread

TREADS IN NonDic (skimobile 1969 "There were a couple of skimobiles down there, little open scooters with skis in front and treads in back")

TRIES AND NonDic (rugby, definition "to designate one of the leading forms of the game of football, played with an oval ball which may be kicked or handled: points are obtained by scoring tries and kicking goals")

TRINADES New Primer of Puzzledom, National Puzzlers' League 1968, pl of trinade, a type of versified word puzzle

In May 1999 Ross Eckler also noted that the alphome AEINORST ought to produce many more transposals than its six known ones. I hope to present a fuller list of AEINORST transposals, going well beyond six, in a later Word Ways article.